



November 2023

Thoughts in Print—from Pastor Sue

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've recently been re-reading a daily devotional that was a gift from my sister a few years ago. It's called "A Year with C.S. Lewis". The resource is a compilation of readings from his various writings as a prolific Christian author. One I read recently comes to mind, especially as we wrestle with so much hatred and violence happening in our world. It begins with: *"[One of the most unpopular of the Christian virtues] is laid down in the Christian rule, 'Thou shalt love thy enemy as thyself'. Because in Christian morals 'thy neighbor' includes 'thy enemy', and so we come up against this terrible duty of forgiving our enemies."*

Lewis paints a picture of what this means within the context of WWII which pitted nation against nation in global conflict. These days it seems too easy for some to see 'enemies' at every turn, not only far away but close to home. What is it that causes you to see someone as an enemy? Because it's such a harsh word. And it is directly related to the idea of hating others. And all that hate is tearing us apart, both within and without.

In this challenging time, and especially as we move into the holiday season, let us all reach deep within ourselves and examine what and who might be at the root of hatred in us. May we all find and address the things that cause us fear and anger and allow the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus to help us to find a place of grace and compassion for all people; and not only for others, but for ourselves as well. We recently sang this song in church. May it serve today as a prayer!

Peace, Pastor Sue

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.

When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.



**The Toms River
Clergy
Association**
Interfaith

Thanksgiving Service.

Sunday, November 19 / 4:00 pm.

at Congregation B'nai Israel

1488 Old Freehold Road, Toms River, NJ.

*Our new Health and Wellness
Committee will have a presentation on
"Managing Grief
and Loss Through
the Holidays".
December 3rd
at 11:30 am.*





We need your help!!!

To make this year's Thanksgiving dinner successful, we need many hands.

There are several ways to help:

Bring in food items (canned vegies, stuffing, boxed potatoes, gravy, pies,. etc.).

Cooking/preparing food—we need people to prepare the food and bring it to Christ Episcopal Church (415 Washington Street, TR).

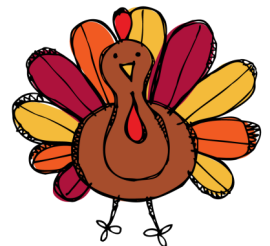
Thanksgiving Day—We need people to help serve (fill dinner boxes, serve meals to people picking up, etc.). We need help on Wednesday evening (6:00—8:00) and Thanksgiving Day.

Aluminum pans, boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing, cans of vegies, etc., are available for you to "take and make" the food at home. If you can help, please sign-up—you will be contacted soon.

The prepared food can be dropped off at Christ Episcopal Church on Wednesday, November 23rd (6-8pm) OR on Thanksgiving Day by 8:30am.

For more info or to sign-up, contact Nikki Schley
Or call the church office.

THANK YOU!!!!!!



THANKSGIVING "TO GO" DINNER

If you or a loved one would like a "to go" Thanksgiving dinner, please contact Carol at 732-255-4455 and place your order. When calling, please state your name, how many meals you need for the day and a contact phone number.

Please call the office no later than Tuesday, November 21st to place your order.

Meals can be picked up in the parking lot at
Christ Episcopal Church
from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Thanksgiving Day.



Advent Family Fun

Saturday, December 2nd
10:00 am

Fun for ALL AGES. We'll be getting ready for Advent with Crafts, devotional materials, etc. Come join the fun!

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY

A Season for Giving - In the next few weeks we'll be sending out Commitment Cards and other information

to every individual and family to consider your generosity of time, talent and treasure in support of our ministry here at Holy Cross. It takes all of us to make our ministries happen. Please prayerfully consider how God may be leading you to participate in new and amazing ways!



Sunday Adult Forum

Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM each week.

Nov. 19 - Christian History Made Easy - Chapter 1: The Gospels, the Apostles Then... What? AD 64 to AD 177

Nov. 26 - Christian History Made Easy - Chapter 1 (cont.)

Dec. 3 - Advent 1: A Thrill of Hope

Dec. 10 - Advent 2: The Prince of Peace

Dec. 17 - Advent 3 - Joy to the World

Dec. 24 - Advent 4 - Love Divine



Keep the following people in your prayers

(long-term illnesses)

Evelyn Hees, Cindy Williams, Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Scott, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Barbara Carlson, Paul Stenzel, Dee Barbara, Karen Ryan, Kristine Schley, Susan and Sean Buglio



FFFM Coordinator Position - Council has approved the hiring of a Family Faith Formation Ministry Coordinator to assist in the administrative, clerical and communication coordination of our learning ministries, with particular focus on our programs with children and youth. The position will begin at 12 hours per week and \$15.00/hour. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact Pastor Sue, sjones@holycrosstr.com, or Janis Provost, janis1455@aol.com.



Movie day "I Heard the Bells."

Sunday Nov. 26th at noon in the Sanctuary

The inspiring true story behind the writing of the beloved Christmas carol and its author, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Please bring a lunch.

Any questions contact Janis Provost at 732-267-1428.





New Ministries Forming Through Our Discipleship Team!

Earlier this year many of you participated in some conversations about the direction of our ministry. In response we are forming some new teams to live into your input!

- ⇒ Sunshine Committee - The purpose of this team will be intentional and regular contact with our members! This will include quarterly every member outreach as well as periodic contacts to folks on our prayer list with cards and calls as needed.
- ⇒ Health and Wellness Committee - The purpose of this team will be to support members and the community at large through speakers on important topics as well as folks willing to be a resource when life events and questions arise. We're planning our first speaking topic for **December 3rd after church on "Managing Grief and Loss Through the Holidays"**.



If you are interested in being part of either of these teams, please contact Lisa Fobian at 732-245-8070.



*We welcome the
newly baptized.*

Gregory Joseph Ferris
Son of Jessica (Walsh) and
Michael Ferris.

*We rejoice with you in the
life of baptism. Together we
will give thanks and praise
to God and proclaim the
good news to all the world.*



*Blessed are those who
die in the Lord.*

Deborah Lucas
August 29

Carol Hoffman
September 16

*Rest eternal grant them O Lord, and
let light perpetual shine upon them.*

* * * * *



A few months ago after many years of service, our copier gave it's final breath. We bought a new one (much smaller) but still have the old one just sitting in the office taking up space. If you, or somebody you know, can remove it, please let me know!

Also, our volunteer IT person is retiring and we need somebody that can provide us with IT. We need somebody who is familiar with Microsoft Azure and can add domain printers in a Microsoft environment.

If you can help with either, please let me know! Thanks! Carol Dorn

CHURCH COUNCIL



2023 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones

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President, Janis Provost

janis1455@aol.com

VP, Janice Hutchison

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Secretary, Pam Walter

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Community Outreach

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Rebuilding Team

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Family Faith Formation

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Fellowship

Peter Riemschneider

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Worship and Music

Nikki Schley

schley33@aol.com

Community Outreach

dates
to Remember

Nov. 19	Interfaith Thanksgiving
4:00 pm	Service at B'nai Israel
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Dinner
11—2 pm	at Christ Episcopal
Nov. 26	Movie Day at Holy Cross
	12:00 noon
Dec. 2	Advent Family Fun
	10:00 am
Dec. 3	"Managing Grief and Loss
11:30 am	through the Holidays"

The church office will be closed
on November 23rd and 24th.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Do we have your current contact information??

We are continually updating our records and want to make sure that we have your correct information. We especially need your current email address and phone number. You can email us with your information (even if you think we already have it!) to info@holycrosstr.com. (Please note - your information will NEVER be shared with anybody outside of church.)



Thank you to everybody who donated mittens, scarves, hats and coats for our Gift of Warmth drive. Over 10 large bags were delivered to Your Grandmother's Cupboard.

To make an electronic donation using your phone, just scan the QR code.



Church Office: P (732) 255-4455
Christian Preschool & Day Care: (732) 255-3112
Info@holycrosstr.com
www.HolyCrossLutheranNJ.com
www.facebook.com/holycrosstr
Twitter - @HolyCrossTR

Worship Services:

Saturday, 5:00 pm

Sunday, 10:00 am (and Facebook Live)

Office hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 2:00